

a prosthetic heart valve having a plurality of commissure supports and valve leaflets, said commissure supports terminating in free ends and at least one of said commissure supports being deflectable radially inwardly;

a valve holder;

means for attaching the heart valve to the valve holder with the valve holder being remote from the free ends of the commissure supports; and

means at least partially on the valve holder for deflecting at least one commissure support radially inwardly.

30. An assembly comprising:

a prosthetic heart valve having a suture ring, a plurality of commissure supports projecting from the suture ring and terminating in free end portions and a plurality of valve leaflets;

a valve holder;

elongated flexible means for attaching the valve holder to the heart valve with said suture ring being between the valve holder and the commissure supports; and

a portion of said elongated flexible means extending between said free end portions of said commissure supports to form a suture loop guard.

31. An assembly comprising:

a prosthetic heart valve having a plurality of commissure supports and valve leaflets, at least one of said commissure supports being deflectable radially inwardly and each of said commissure supports having a free end;

a valve holder including first and second holder members and means for mounting the first holder member for movement relative to the second holder member;

means for attaching the heart valve to the valve holder with the valve holder being remote from the free ends of the commissure supports; and

means responsive to the movement of the first holder member relative to the second holder member for deflecting at least one of the commissure supports radially inwardly.

32. An assembly comprising:

a prosthetic heart valve having a plurality of commissure supports and valve leaflets, at least one of said commissure supports being deflectable radially inwardly;

a valve holder;

means for attaching the heart valve to the valve holder;

means for deflecting at least said one commissure support radially inwardly;

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a handle;

means for attaching the handle to the valve holder;

and

said deflecting means being responsive to the attachment of the handle to the holder to deflect said one commissure support radially inwardly.

33. An assembly comprising:

a prosthetic heart valve having a plurality of commissure supports and valve leaflets, at least one of said commissure supports being deflectable radially inwardly;

a valve holder;

means for attaching the heart valve to the valve holder;

a rotatable handle attachable to the valve holder;

and

means responsive to the rotation of the handle for deflecting at least said one commissure support radially inwardly.

Remarks

New claims 29-33 submitted herewith are copied from the last Office Action for purposes of interference as suggested by the Examiner.